

**SUBJECT: HB 198 – SADDLING MONTANA**

EXHIBIT 21  
DATE 1/12/2011  
HB 198

January 11, 2011

Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications Committee  
Montana House of Representatives  
PO Box 200400  
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Dear Concerned Committee Members:

Please include this cover letter and all of the following attachments as my officially submitted document  
FOR THE RECORD:

1. Cover Letter – I am certain you will read.
2. My initial, emailed letter to all members of the committee that I hope you will objectively consider.
3. 2 quotes from President Lincoln and President Reagan that I pray you will take to heart!
4. Additional document that includes vital information to not only HB 198 but also significant pertinent wind development information.

Upon reading all said information, I am certain you will realize, if you have not done so already, that HB 198 is a beginning to an end that would devastate what our country was founded on---INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS!

I am also certain, as you place your head on your pillow at night, you will reflect upon the enormous implications this bill will have on MONTANA! This is the LAST BEST PLACE and when you took the oath of office, no doubt, the preservation of what we hold dear and the Constitution of this land were at the forefront of your desire to serve! I do pray you do the right thing!

And finally, I wish to thank you for sacrificing so much, in your public service, to the people of Montana. With your assistance and strong conviction to investigate proponents and opponents of bills fully before taking a vote, this great state can move forward in a positive, thought provoking, PIONEERING spirit that will encourage other states to follow. Please BLAZE THE TRAIL, STAND STRONG and avoid the temptation to make decisions to fix today but jeopardize MONTANANS FUTURE, VITALITY, HUMBLE APPRECIATE FOR THE LAND, and OVERWHELMING FORTITUDE TO HOLD FAST TO THE IDEALS THAT MAKE THIS STATE UNIQUE!!

Please ask yourself, "Am I destroying the very thing I am trying to protect if I vote for this bill?  
Am I focused on Corporations instead of the private citizens?  
Will this bill affect electrical rates and what impact will this have on the citizens and business of agriculture?

Respectfully,



Denise Thompson  
Townsend, MT 59644

949-1118

"We all declare for liberty; but in using the same word we do not all mean the same thing. With some the word liberty may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself, and the product of his labor; while with others, the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men, and the product of other men's labor. Here are two, not only different, but incompatible things, called by the same name—liberty. And it follows that each of the things is, by the respective parties, called by two different and incompatible names—liberty and tyranny."

**Abraham Lincoln, 1864**

As President Ronald Reagan once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

## Denise Thompson

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**From:** Denise Thompson [denise4js@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 12, 2011 9:46 AM  
**To:** bcd@mt.net  
**Subject:** Fwd: HB 198

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Denise Thompson <denise4js@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tue, Jan 11, 2011 at 5:23 AM  
**Subject:** HB 198  
**To:** [klock@mtintouch.net](mailto:klock@mtintouch.net), [kregier@centurytel.net](mailto:kregier@centurytel.net), [rdriscoll@peoplepc.com](mailto:rdriscoll@peoplepc.com), [cboland@mt.gov](mailto:cboland@mt.gov),  
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January 10, 2011

Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications Committee

Montana House of Representatives

PO Box 200400

Helena, MT 59620-0400

### **Subject: HB 198 – Saddling Montanans!**

Dear Committee Members:

I respectfully ask you to oppose HB 198 and following are some key points to consider:

1. President Ronald Reagan once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States

1/12/2011

where men were free." Folks as elected officials, I do hope you will hold this beautiful state in highest regard and do everything in your power to protect it, the citizens and their private property rights. Any bill that crosses your desk giving public utilities the right to stampede through one's personal property must be vehemently opposed or a basic liberty will be lost!

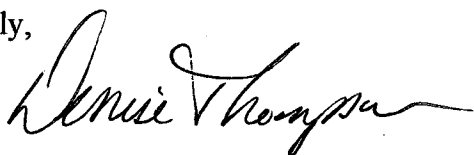
2. The Major Facility Siting Act has changed considerably since its inception. Thank you in advance for assuring your constituents you are knowledgeable and well versed on the original MFSA and all changes that have taken place with the said act.

3. This bill will have far reaching implications not only for condemnation but also for power bill rate increases. If you vote for HB 198 you will be **saddling Montanans** with devastating power bills impacting farmers, ranchers, business owners and all citizens of the Treasure State. Is this what you want your legacy to be? Please do not GAMBLE with the lives of Montanans. Thank you.

4. Line 14 is very unsettling. It states, "**Meeting state and federal obligation to provide service**". Please don't allow someone to sell you a "blind horse" that will carry you over a cliff. Service to whom? Allowing a mass influx of transmission lines to ship energy, green or other wise, out of state when ALL solutions/alternatives have NOT been studied is not only irresponsible but also unethical.

I trust you love this great state as much as I and that you have it and its citizen's best interest at heart. Please do not allow the rapacious corporate mentality destroy that which you were elected to preserve and protect. Yes the stakes are high and the onus of responsibility falls on you. Thank you for doing the right thing. Thank you for voting "No" on HB 198.

Sincerely,



Denise Thompson

Townsend MT

406-949-1118

## **BLOWIN' IN THE WIND**

For those of you, who may be vacillating over Northwestern Energy's MSTI project, may the following questions gnaw at your common sense and foster an awareness of urgency and fortitude as you grasp the magnitude of the dilemma before us.

**IS THE WINDSTORM JUST BEGINNING?** Please understand MSTI is only one of many future alternative energy projects sweeping the nation. Montana, alone, has 50 wind projects being considered. Broadwater County happens to be the location for the proposed substation/collector site and starting point for the massive 500kV MSTI transmission line. Here's the kicker-- The substation will devour 50-75 football fields of private property just 5 miles south of Townsend by US HWY 287 and the Missouri River. 74-86% of the power line will be on private property in the county before it heads west. The enormous substation will be a collection site for numerous future Montana wind energy projects. How many power lines loom in our future? Who really knows?!

**ARE WE THROWING MONEY TO THE WIND?** Before you buy into wind energy, the foundation of MSTI, I strongly suggest you investigate this alternative energy source, seeking information from Europe to Hawaii, from eastern Oregon to Texas. At first glance wind appears to be the way to go. But once the \$23.34 per MWH in taxpayer subsidies disappears the infatuation quickly wears off. Interestingly, hydro, coal and natural gas are subsidized at less than \$1.00 per MWH. There is no such thing as government money. We the people are paying to not only sustain wind energy but also line the pockets of wind developers as well. How much more can this country take?!! Folks take a good hard look at the European countries and how they are doing with all of their wind projects and why America is such an attraction for foreign wind developers.

**ARE WE DESTROYING THE VERY THING WE ARE TRYING TO PRESERVE?**

Agriculture, breathtaking scenery, wildlife, heritage and the wonderment of the West are being threatened in various degrees. One Wyoming study indicates coal mined for one year could produce 1.2 billion MW hours of power. The equivalent would require 219,000 wind turbines consuming 19.7 million acres. If one cannot fathom this statistic, he must agree, it is still ludicrous to devour so many acres for so little production. Where is the efficiency? Take into consideration the fact that wind energy can not be stored and it can not be shipped without the assistance of another energy source such as coal. Contemplate the amount of transmission lines needed to transport all of the energy and the ratio of public land vs. private land for line placement. I wonder how many private landowners will be facing eminent domain through all of this! Why is it that Europe requires burying transmission lines and does so far cheaper than the USA? Why is it that the EU appears to not even allow 500kV lines at all? Furthermore, what impact are wind turbines having on birds and other wildlife?

IS THE WIND BLOWING DUST IN OUR EYES? Northwestern Energy wants to develop an alternative energy project to sell Montana's wind power to Nevada and California. Both states possess their own alternative energy sources so WHY would there be a need or necessity for the southwest to purchase our wind? A NWE employee was asked, "Why don't we keep the wind energy for our own use in Montana?" He replied, "It will be way too expensive. We won't be able to afford it." Oh, but California will?! What issues is that state facing with its wind farms? Isn't it fair to say Montana could very well encounter the same problems Europe, Oregon, Texas and California are encountering? And why is Wyoming trying to slow down this obsession with wind development until more research can be done?

Folks, do we honestly feel the possible short term benefits of tax credits and increased property tax revenue will offset the long term negative impacts on property value, electrical rates, agriculture, health, safety, tourism, private property rights and the future direction of our county and state? We can not simply focus on the money. We all know, at some point, the wind will die down and we will be faced with an everlasting question—Did we intelligently, ethically and wholeheartedly send THE LAST BEST PLACE—MONTANA down the right path?

I want to stress, I am a proponent of innovation and the development of ways to reduce our carbon footprint. I am also a defender of responsible natural resource consumption. I am certainly a supporter of free enterprise, prosperity and the livelihood of the communities in this great state. BUT, until someone can prove to me otherwise, I do not see how folks can potentially sacrifice so many things for so few guarantees. The utter groundwork of MSTI and future alternative energy projects lack transparency, forthrightness and the ability to stand on their own merits!

Respect, honesty, hard work and integrity are the cornerstones to that which we all value most—a job well done! I do hope the movers and shakers in this venture will take a deep breath, ponder all the facts, seek further guidance, reevaluate future ramifications, pursue better technology and consider the valid concerns respectfully set in front of them before they go *blowin' in the wind!*

Respectfully,  
Denise Thompson